

Fall is my favorite season of Creation. Which always gives way to my favorite liturgical season—Advent. Jesus is coming—but is not here yet. That is what Advent is about (and literally means). Unlike those generations of prophets who longed for a day they never saw, we can see the first rays of light. John the Baptist is preparing the way of the Lord. Mary has said “Yes.” Jesus is almost here! Almost, but not yet. It’s the “almost” that I love about Advent, because that is so often our reality.

I started listening to Advent music three weeks ago. I love the hymnody of the season, with musical chords that are pregnant with hope, and poetic lyrics of our great longing for a Savior. It wasn’t a conscious decision to start early, but it just happened to be the music I pulled up to suit the feelings of the week. A friend had a miscarriage, and I presided over the burial for little James in the Infant Section at Holy Rood, where I have been before. She made the sign of the cross on the little container with holy water - the blessing of Holy Mother Church. She then reached up and wiped a tear from her face, and once again made the sign of the cross - the blessing of a heartbroken mother. It was a sad week, with a funeral Mass and burial of a 27-year-old young woman and spending a few hours in the early hours of the morning with two brothers I know from my last parish, as we kept vigil with their dad as he was dying.

We need salvation. There is brokenness. There is pain and sorrow. This weekend marks the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. I was there just a few months ago, standing on the deck of the battleship USS Missouri, imagining the hundreds of enemy planes circling above, the destruction that was wrought, and the lives that were lost. Now the sun shines brightly and commercial flights pass overhead, and yet war is a daily reality for some in our world, while others carry with them the scars of the past. We need a Savior. That is our present reality. And in His love for us – He is coming and is almost here.

How will you embrace and live this season of the almost, and prepare and look forward to our Savior who draws near?

Fr. Matthew Oakland
Pastor



Advent Playlist



Fr. Oakland's Top Songs.
Listen YouTube, Spotify and other streaming services.

▶ People Look East	♥
▶ Wake, O Wake and Sleep No Longer	...
▶ Awake, O Sleeper	♥
▶ Comfort, Comfort My People	...
▶ Wake, Awake for Night is Flying	♥
▶ Come Thou Long Expected Jesus	...
▶ On Jordans Bank	♥
▶ The Advent of our King	...
▶ The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns	♥
▶ O Come, Divine Messiah	...
▶ Creator of the Stars of Night	♥
▶ Creator of the Stars of Night	...
▶ When the King Shall Come	♥
▶ The Angel Gabriel	...
▶ Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates	♥
▶ Emmanuel	...
▶ Lo' How a Rose E'er Blooming	♥
▶ Rorate Caeli	...
▶ O Come, O Come Emmanuel	♥